

The company has a strong working relationship with North Carolina State University and participates in the university's "ePartners" program. For the past three and one-half years, Network Appliance has been a "Super ePartner," the highest level of corporate involvement. The "ePartners" support the university's computer science department financially and undertake collaborative work with faculty and students. In addition, last September Network Appliance RTP received the top honor in the "Best Places to Work in the Triangle" award competition from the *Triangle Business Journal*, ranking first and in the top 10 for the third consecutive year.

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, Wake County and Research Triangle Foundation.

Under the terms of the agreement authorized unanimously by the state Economic Investment Committee chaired by Commerce Secretary Jim Fain, a 10-year grant will be established. During the life of the grant, the N.C. Department of Commerce estimates the project will:

- Generate a cumulative gross state product value of just under \$971 million.
- Produce a positive cumulative net state revenue impact of \$20 million.
- Contribute nearly \$5.1 million to the state's Industrial Development Fund for infrastructure improvements in rural North Carolina. This contribution is required of grant recipients that locate in a Tier 3 urban county.

For each year in which the company meets the required performance targets, the state will provide a grant equal to 65 percent of the state personal income withholding taxes derived from the creation of new jobs. If the company creates the jobs called for under the agreement and sustains them for 10 years, the agreement could yield maximum benefits to the company of as much as \$15.3 million over the life of the grant.

The Job Development Investment Grant initiative, proposed by Easley in 2002, awards up to 25 grants annually to strategically important new and expanding businesses and industrial projects. These grants are only awarded to projects whose benefits exceed their costs to the state and which would not be undertaken in North Carolina without the grant. This is the 60th JDIG grant awarded since the program began in 2003 and the fifth of 2007. Since its inception, JDIG is responsible for bringing \$3 billion in investment and more than 20,000 jobs to North Carolina.

For more information about Network Appliance or career opportunities with the company, visit <http://www.netapp.com>.

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